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18 February 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with the Director re Senator Ellender, etc.

1. This morning the Director told me that last week he and Secretary Laird had discussed the problem of briefing Senator Allen J. Ellender on Agency matters and particularly on two sensitive projects of mutual concern to the Agency and DOD. Laird urged, and the Director agreed, that the Director take responsibility for informing Ellender regarding the two sensitive projects. The Director feels strongly that they can best be presented to Ellender without creating an adverse reaction if they are "folded into" a broad briefing on community and Agency matters. The Director feels that if he appears too eager to press for an early briefing of these sensitive projects, the briefing might be counterproductive, and he does not wish the Agency to take any further initiative in trying to get a meeting with Ellender in view of the fact that Ellender has not responded to three previous overtures from the Agency via Ellender's staff.

2. The Director understands Bill Woodruff's concern that Ellender be briefed promptly because of the embarrassing position that Woodruff may be in as a result of being aware of matters of which his Chairman is uninformed. The Director said we are free to remind Woodruff that the Director has discussed the matter with both Senator Milton Young and Secretary Laird and we have made three separate offers to Ellender's office to set up an early briefing. The Director further agrees that we can suggest to Woodruff that he himself might want to remind Ellender of the desirability of an early Agency briefing. In sum, the Director has no reluctance to brief Ellender at any time at the Senator's convenience, but feels strongly that:

a. It would be unwise to press too hard in view of the Senator's preoccupation with other problems.

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b. It is most important that the two sensitive projects in question, which are of much more importance to DOD than to the Agency, not be presented in a way that will complicate the Agency's relations with Ellender.

With this in mind, the Director feels strongly that they should be presented as more or less incidental to a general briefing on Agency and community matters.

3. In the same conversation the Director spoke of a recent conversation he had with Ed Foley, Assistant Secretary of Treasury under earlier Democratic Administration, in which Foley had remarked that one of the most powerful and least appreciated members of the Senate was Senator James O. Eastland, and recommended that the Director would find it useful to cultivate the Senator at a suitable opportunity. Therefore, when told I would be seeing Eastland today the Director asked me to convey his regards and explain the Director would welcome a chance to sit down and talk to the Senator about mutual problems.

4. When told that Ed Braswell had mentioned to us the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee's interest in the record of our National Estimates regarding SS-9's, the Director remarked at the morning staff meeting that [redacted] should pull together material on this since the Director was not sure in his own mind what it might reveal. In our subsequent conversation, the Director said in matters of this kind he expected me to "ride herd" on everybody who was expected to contribute to the congressional briefings on matters relating to the Congress. He said he was haunted by the fear that some day some congressional request would get lost in the shuffle and he wanted to be certain that OLC monitored every such requirement and ensured it received prompt attention by the interested component. He also emphasized his concern that responses requiring substantial leadtime be acted on promptly so that we could avoid as much as possible the inevitable "last minute rush" to pull things together for briefing deadlines.

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5. I raised with the Director the possible use of some recent satellite photography of the earthquake area of southern California in talking with some of our contacts on the Hill. The Director said this

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was a delicate subject because we would want to avoid pressure to release high-resolution photography for general earth resources studies, but on a selected basis he thought this might be a good ploy. He suggested that such southern California representatives as Holifield and Bob Wilson, in whose discretion we had confidence, might find these photos quite interesting. 25X1

[redacted]

JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

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